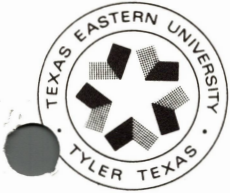


5-16-1977

## Administrative Notes, May 16th, 1977

University of Texas at Tyler



## TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY

3900 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD • TYLER, TEXAS 75701 • 214/566-1471

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 16, 1977

To: Board of Regents, Texas Eastern University  
From: James H. Stewart, Jr. *[Signature]*  
Subject: Administrative Notes

I. Slaying of Dr. W. Carl Roddy

Although I am cognizant that it seems superfluous, nevertheless, I state (or perhaps I should say "understate" because words are not strong enough in this situation) that last week was an awful week in the life of Texas Eastern University. Regarding the event which made last week an awful one, the murder of Dr. Walter Carl Roddy on Thursday, May 12, 1977 at approximately 1:45 p.m. just outside his office on the Texas Eastern University campus, I wish to confirm my informal verbal report made to you last Saturday that in my judgement all university community personnel responded extremely well under this tragic set of circumstances. In fact, reflecting on the total situation at this point, I am even more confident than I was Saturday that this terrible occurrence could not possibly have been handled better. Without question our University Police performed their duties in keeping with the professional qualifications which they possess. Among other considerations, this basically confirms our earlier deliberate recommendation and decision to establish a professional police operation as opposed to the "security-guard" concept within the university organization. All other university personnel performed and are continuing to perform in regard to this unbelievable situation as well as could possibly be expected. Surely, I, along with all university employees, appreciated and continue to appreciate the involvement of Chairman David K. McKie and all other regents in working with the staff in an appropriate manner during the terrible days, Thursday through Saturday of last week. Particularly I am grateful that each of you has acknowledged your awareness that I attempted to the best of my ability to keep you as fully informed as

possible during the approximately twenty-four period from the time of Dr. Roddy's murder at about 1:45 p.m. on Thursday until the suspect's capture about 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Furthermore, I communicated with Board Chairman McKie and Legal Committee Chairman Turner last Friday about leadership matters which needed attention. And as informally indicated last Saturday, I will continue to bring appropriate matters to the attention of board members. I emphasize again, however, that in representing the university from the staff standpoint, I will persist in a low-key approach. As we are all aware, this is a matter for the District Attorney of Smith County, Texas to handle within the well-defined laws of the State of Texas.

Mrs. Roddy (Jane) and the two young sons (Andy, age 8, and Sean, age 7) are seemingly continuing to do as well as could be expected. Likewise, this is true of other family members including Carl's father who has a serious heart condition. I should mention again, as I did Saturday, that the needs of Carl's survivors, in my judgement, will be well taken care of for the immediate future. The benefits program through the university is very good and we can be thankful for past decisions made in this regard. Of course, I, along with others in the "university employee family" will continue to be attentive to the family's needs in every possible manner. The TEU Dr. W. Carl Roddy Memorial Fund will require certain recommendations and decisions which I feel should be made later when information is somewhat complete and thoughts are clearer thereby making a course or courses of action more certain. But one thing is certain at this time: the memory of this awful wasteful act will never go away from any of us presently associated with Texas Eastern University. More positively, it is just as certain that the meaningful accomplishments of Dr. Walter Carl Roddy through service to our institution will likewise never go away from any of us.

## II. Approval by Board of Nurse Examiners

Full accreditation approval for our nursing program by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas was granted during the organization's meeting on May 4, 1977. Official notification of approval was, of course, received very positively within the institution, and I am very pleased to notify you of this action. A more complete report will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

## III. Ad Valorem Tax Fund

A copy of a bill which Representative Bill Clark has introduced pertaining to the inclusion of Texas Eastern University in the ad valorem tax fund is enclosed for your information. This is a matter which I discussed with the board several months ago that would add Texas Eastern to the ad valorem tax fund through which construction funding is provided to other state institutions under the Texas Constitution with



with the exception of University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems schools which are included in the Permanent University Fund. The ad valorem tax fund is reapportioned each ten years with the next reapportionment scheduled for 1978. Therefore, the 65th Legislature must take action on the matter in our behalf or it cannot be reviewed again for another ten years.

IV. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending May 13, 1977.

JHS:rc

Enclosure and attachment